Contact: Chris Wilhelm, Program Specialist

rnor Brian Schweitzer

TELEPHONE: (406-)444-4480

FAX: (406)444-3037 e-mail: ChrisWilhelm@mt.gov February 1, 2006 PO BOX 1728 HELENA MT 59624-1728

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Governor Selects Winners**

HELENA - - - The Governor's appointed State Workforce Investment Board announced the following award recipients for the Governor's Desiree Taggart Memorial Award for Workforce Development:

- Outstanding Business of the Year for Profit: Sage Spa Salon (Bozeman), Jobs by Design program, for providing complimentary makeovers to workforce system graduates.
- Outstanding Business of the Year Not for Profit: Student Assistance Foundation (Helena), for demonstrating their continuing commitment to serve the students of Montana.
- Individual Workforce Development Achievement Public Sector: Linda Beck (Billings) for her leadership, creativity and expertise - having a positive impact on workforce and economic development.
- Individual Workforce Development Achievement Private Sector: Liz Marchi (Kalispell) for creating jobs that allow Montanans' an opportunity to use their skills or learn new marketable skills and provide support for their families.
- Quality Program Public Sector: Bitterroot Workforce System Community Management
  Team (Hamilton) for their work to reduce barriers and efforts to make services seamless and accessible through many venues.

(more)

"The values and abilities embraced by the Desiree Taggart awardees showcase the best of Montana's Workforce System," said State Workforce Investment Board Chairman Dan Miles.

The State Workforce Investment Board is currently soliciting 2006 nominations. Montana workforce development organizations, businesses and individuals are eligible for the awards based on outstanding achievement or contributions to employment and training efforts in Montana, including: improved productivity, creativity, economy and efficiency in Montana's workforce system.

Award nominations are due to the State Workforce Investment Board by May 31, 2006, and should be mailed to PO Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624. For more information, visit the State Workforce Investment Board's website of: <a href="http://boards.mt.gov/swib/">http://boards.mt.gov/swib/</a> (Resources link), or contact Chris Wilhelm at (406)444-4480.